

Lambda Letters Project

32608

Vol. 7, No. 4

April, 1999

www.lambdaletters.org

LambdaLP@aol.com

(916) 965-6851

Dreams

by Boyce Hinman, Administrator

The dreamers of tiny dreams litter the world with their little victories. The dreams of those who dream great dreams may often fail, but when they do succeed, the world moves.

—Anonymous

Will you make my dream come true?

At the end of next year, December 31, 2000, I will retire from Lambda Letters Project. By then I will have been at the helm of the Project for over 12 years. In 1988 we collected barely 900 letters to elected officials. Ten years later we collected over 120,000 letters and e-mail messages. We together have built a powerful voice for the community in Sacramento. But there is the very real possibility that this voice will be stilled upon my retirement.

Right from the start, I dreamed of building a vehicle for making politicians recognize our rights as full and respected citizens of this great nation. In particular, I dreamed of building an organization that could live beyond the need of my leadership.

You and I together, with the help of many volunteers, have come very close to accomplishing that dream. But the honest-to-God truth is that there are some serious problems that must be overcome if we are

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A Different Kind of Gold Watch

by Boyce Hinman, Administrator

In the lead article of this newsletter, I announced that I will be retiring from Lambda Letters Project at the end of 2000. By that time, I will have been at the helm of Lambda Letters for twelve years.

It used to be common for long-serving employees to get gold watches from their employers in commemoration of their years of employment. Gold watches can be expensive and so, lucky for you, that's not what I want upon my retirement. However, I'm going to be vulgar enough to tell you what I *would* like to get.

I'd like a law passed and signed by Governor Davis providing protection from discrimination for trans folk in California. In particular, I'd like a revision of California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to provide such protection. More than anything else, the knowledge that you and I played a part in passing such legislation would give me happy memories, for the rest of my life, of my service with the Lambda Letters Project.

It's too late to introduce legislation this year. There seemed little interest among legislators to introduce a bill, and leaders in our community feared that a

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

February, 1999	5,150 letters & e-mails
In all of 1999	9,387 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

February, 1999	\$1,846
In all of 1999	\$3,434

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

Board of Directors

Chair: Stefan Grünwedel, San Francisco, (650) 655-3154,
s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com

Vice-Chair: Alan Beach, San Francisco, (415) 431-5152, alanrbs@aol.com

Recorder: Jan Hansen, San Diego, (619) 275-5343, partners@access1.net

Treasurer: Michael Butler, Antelope, (916) 722-6301, mbutler@gvn.net

Larry Beaty, Carmichael, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Lynn Dobbs, San Diego, (619) 275-5343, partners@access1.net

Ray Leber, Sacramento, (916) 925-5368

Morris Lyons, San Leandro, (510) 895-6437, mlyons1@earthlink.net

Victor M. Sanchez, San Diego, (619) 284-0464

Tom Swann, Rancho Mirage, (760) 324-5670, taswann@aol.com

Staff

Administrator: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Stefan Grünwedel, (650) 655-3154, s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com

Legislative Analyst, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues: Carolyn Race,

Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, (323) 860-7361, gaylesbla@aol.com

Legislative Analyst, HIV/AIDS Status Issues: Randy Allgaier, San Francisco
AIDS Foundation, (415) 487-3000

Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez, (415) 255-9191,
mmar10ez@aol.com

Legislative Analyst, Women's Issues: *Vacant*

Database Manager: Charles Penn, (916) 663-4951, cpenn@foothill.net

Webmaster: Lynn Dobbs, San Diego (619) 275-5343,

webmaster@lambdalletters.org

E-mail Alert Advocate, Federal AIDS Issues: Joe Heller, (520) 762-9787,

jrheller@dakotacom.net

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The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly except in December by
Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

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Business-card sized ads (3½" x 2") \$10 per issue,
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Santa Rosa (707-576-2363)	Stockton (209-948-7770)
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Support Dignity for All Students

by Carolynn Race,
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

Even as we near the 21st century, anti-LGBT slurs, violence, and harassment are commonplace in schools. To address this concern, Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) has again sponsored the Dignity for All Students Act, A.B. 222, which would protect students from discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation.

A.B. 222 adds "sexual orientation" to the existing nondiscrimination language of the California Education Code and removes the funding restriction on the Hate Violence Prevention Act, so that we can seek federal funding for the prevention program. This bill would apply to all public school districts, community college districts, and the California State University system. It would also apply to the University of California, after approval by the University Regents.

The bill requires the administration of each public school and campus to ensure that programs and activities are free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, as they now must on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, color, and physical and mental disability. Discrimination would be prohibited in inter-scholastic athletics, admissions, and financial aid. In addition, school districts and teachers would be prohibited from adopting or using materials that reflect adversely upon persons solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

As you know, harassment against LGBT students is not without consequences. In fact, 22 percent of gay and lesbian youth skip school each month because they fear for their safety on school grounds. Gay and lesbian youth are also three to four times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year than their heterosexual peers.

On March 22nd, over 700 youth gathered in Sacramento for Youth Lobby Day—urging legislators to support A.B. 222. Join with them and ask your law makers to support this legislation. It would add protections that all students need: protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Medi-Cal for the HIV-Positive

by Boyce Hinman

This month we are asking you to write to the members of the California Senate's Health and Human Services Committee in support of S.B. 1258, sponsored by Senator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles). S.B. 1258 would require the state to seek federal permission to use Medi-Cal funds to pay for health care for people who are HIV-positive, but do not have full-blown AIDS.

Medi-Cal is a federally funded program, called Medicare in the rest of the country. It pays for medical care for the elderly and for younger people who are disabled. People with AIDS are considered disabled as a matter of law. Young people who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS or some other disability, do not qualify for Medicare.

The problem is that the medications needed to keep HIV-positive people from getting AIDS are very expensive, costing between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year. Most people can't afford to pay for them for very long. If they stop taking medications, because they cannot afford them, they most likely will get AIDS.

That tragic outcome could be avoided for many HIV-positive people if Medi-Cal could be used to pay for their care. The purpose of S.B. 1258 is to ask the federal government for permission to do just that. An estimated 8,000 Californians become infected with HIV each year and an estimated 130,500 Californians overall may be HIV-positive. This is not a small matter. Please send your letter in support of this important legislation.

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Restore Women's Human Rights in Afghanistan

by Joy Fisher and Gretchen Jung

On September 27, 1996, the extremist militia group Taliban captured Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, overthrew the existing government, and unilaterally declared an end to women's basic human rights.

Women can now no longer work outside of the home. Girls are prohibited from attending school. Women have restricted access to medical treatment because they can only be treated by female doctors whose access to work is restricted. In addition, women are required to completely cover their bodies with a *burqa*, including a mesh covering their eyes. Women have been beaten for appearing in public without being fully veiled.

Women are virtually imprisoned in their homes. They cannot leave unless accompanied by a male relative, and then only if they wear the *burqa*. The windows of their homes must be painted over, ostensibly so they cannot be seen by men outside; however they cannot see the world outside either.

The effects of these rules have been severe. Women who until 1996 were professors, translators, doctors, lawyers, artists, and writers now find themselves confined to their homes, unable to practice their professions or to participate actively in society. Severe depression among these women has been reported, and relief workers are estimating that the suicide rate has increased significantly. The situation has been compounded by the fact that women cannot be treated by male doctors and women are no longer permitted to practice medicine.

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Support the Office of Multicultural Health

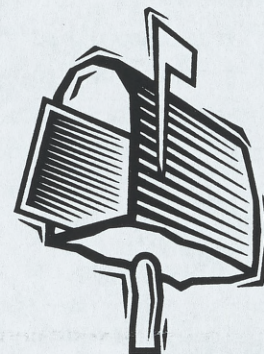
by Marty Martinez

This month's issue concerns S.B. 613, sponsored by Hilda Solis (D—El Monte), which would make permanent the Office of Multicultural Health (OMH) within the Department of Health Services.

The OMH serves to identify gaps in health care for persons of all ethnicities in California, and formulate possible solutions. It is located within the Department of Health Services and acts in conjunction with all DHS programs to ensure that all Californians are being served by DHS and by the health care system.

The office was created in 1993 by executive order and exists at the discretion of the governor. While there has been no sign that Governor Davis does not support the continuation of the office, its work is critical and cannot be allowed to discontinue at the whim of future administrations. In addition, with California's minority population growing rapidly, and with more and more Californians living without health insurance, it is vital that there be a central office within DHS to deal with these important issues. The work of the OMH must be consistent; long-range plans cannot be made without a sense of permanence within the office of the DHS.

We urge you to write your local state senator expressing your support for this important legislation.



MELINDA M. WHITEWAY
Attorney and Counselor at Law

 Meliteway Law Offices
143 Sacramento Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Ph: 831/458-2545
Fax: 831/458-3516
Email: MELINDAMW@aol.com
Internet: <http://firms.findlaw.com/melindamw/>

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April Legislative Update

The following is a list and description of some of the bills Lambda Letters is tracking. You can be sure we will be working on most of them during the year and we will keep you informed of their progress.

If you have Internet access, you can look at the full language of each of the bills. As we explain in the article "Legislative Surfing, Part III" on page 10, just instruct your Web browser to take you to the Lambda Letters Project Web site (www.lambdaletters.org). There we have links to the federal and state legislative Web sites, where you can enter a bill's number and read the text of the bill on-screen. You can print it out as well.

As you will see from the following list, some bills had hearing dates after the newsletter went to press. You can get an up-to-date report on the status of those following bills by visiting our Web site.

Here is the list of bills.

HIV/AIDS Issues

A.B. 16 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded, in-home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raises. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties.

Status: Scheduled for a vote in the Assembly Human Services Committee on March 23rd.

LLP Position: Support.

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A.B. 103 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to implement a unique identifier system in order to conduct HIV surveillance and improve data collection while maximizing confidentiality protections.

Status: Introduced. May be heard in Assembly Health Committee on March 23rd.

LLP Position: Support

A.B. 142 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that every health care service plan provide medical care in accordance with accepted medical practices and provide emergency health care services; also to ensure confidentiality of an enrollee's medical information. Plans must provide access to a wide variety of primary health care providers and specialty health care providers to ensure that the enrollee is able to choose a qualified doctor or other health care provider.

Status: Assigned to Assembly Health Committee for a vote expected on April 6th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 217 (Scott Wildman, D-Glendale)

Purpose: To provide that specified drugs or agents that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use in the treatment of HIV/AIDS shall be added to the drug formularies used by defined Medi-Cal managed care plans and by primary care providers under specified case management contracts.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 6th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 518 (Kerry Mazzoni, D-San Rafael)

Purpose: To permit local jurisdictions to establish legal clean needle and syringe exchange programs in California in order to reduce the spread of AIDS and other diseases spread by the shared use of needles.

Status: Will be referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 6th

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 851 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the AIDS prevention education requirement in grades 7 through 12 to include instruction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases; also to require related instructional materials to be medically

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April Legislative Update

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accurate and free of race, gender, and ethnic bias.

Status: Assigned to the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on April 7th.

LLP Positions: Support.

S.B. 77 (Kevin Murray, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law says a worker's family may apply for a worker's compensation death benefit when that worker dies from a job-related accident or illness. The claim must be submitted within a specified time from the onset of the job-related illness or accident. A longer time is allowed in deaths from asbestosis because of the typically longer time from exposure to asbestos and death from asbestosis. S.B. 77 says that HIV and AIDS have a similarly long period of development and so should have a similarly long time during which a claim for a worker's compensation death benefit may be claimed.

Status: Referred to Senate Industrial Relations Committee. May be voted on in Committee on March 24th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 1258 (Richard Polanco, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive but do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled.

Status: Just introduced. Probably will be referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

S.J.R. 1 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To memorialize the federal government to take steps to ensure that persons abandoned by Medi-

care HMOs have access to other HMOs or Medigap policies; to rescind the determination that disabled persons under 65 years of age enrolled in HMOs do not have the same rights as other Medicare enrollees; and to memorialize the president to issue an executive order directing his administration to work closely and coordinate with California and other states to guide and assist Medicare enrollees who are abandoned by their HMOs to obtain new Medicare coverage.

Status: Was passed by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Next stop, Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Trans Issues

A.B. 26 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Introduced. Assigned to Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 6th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 107 (Wally Knox, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To authorize the state and local governments to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.

Status: Was to be heard in the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee on March 17th. Vote canceled at the author's request.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 208 (Wally Knox, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide that the penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—and this allegation has been charged and found to be true.

Status: Assigned to Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on April 13th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 222 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Santa Monica)

Purpose: Called the Dignity For All Students Act.

Deborah A. Brooks

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April Legislative Update

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Would amend the California Education Code to add "sexual orientation" to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination. It would specifically bar sexual-orientation discrimination in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment, and financial aid.

Status: Will be heard in the Assembly Education and Higher Education Committees in April. Author having difficulty finding support in the Higher Education Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 901 (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Currently if an employer provides health insurance for the domestic partner of an employee, the employee must pay state income tax on the value of the insurance. This bill would exempt health insurance benefits for domestic partners from state income tax.

Status: Sent to Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee for a vote in April.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 1001 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Status: Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support

S.B. 38 (Joe Baca, D-Chino)

Purpose: Introduced on December as a spot bill and called the Religious Freedom Protection Act. Has not been amended yet to add any language. Senator Baca authored a bill with a similar title last year, which purported to protect a person's right to freedom of religious expression. We are concerned that the eventual wording of this bill might undermine a person's protection from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations.

Status: The bill will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Watch.

S.B. 75 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To enact the Domestic Partnership Act of 1999, which would define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 118 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Industrial Relations Committee. Author pulled the bill from a scheduled committee hearing to amend the bill. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

A.B. 43 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Program to arrange for the provision of health services

Continued on page 8

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April Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

to eligible children whose family's income is less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This bill would increase the limit to less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level and would provide that a child who is otherwise eligible for participation shall not be denied eligibility based on the child's date of entry into the United States.

Status: Will be heard in Assembly Health Committee on April 13th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 63 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D—National City)

Purpose: To create an Office of Border Health, which would act to increase cooperation between Mexican and California/U.S. health authorities in tracking disease by monitoring the health of persons along the border region; also to convene a task force of community stakeholders to help develop a strategic plan to address the health concerns in the border region.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Next stop Assembly Appropriations Committee. Will be voted on in that committee on March 24th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 44 (Richard Polanco, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: This bill says that the laws of California, including the restrictions on affirmative action, do not prevent governmental agencies from engaging in focused outreach and recruitment of minority groups and women if any group is underrepresented in entry-level positions or in an educational institution.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on April 6th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 66 (Kevin Murray, D—Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Commission on

Peace Officer Standards and Training to develop and disseminate training for police officers, including instruction on racial and cultural diversity in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between law enforcement and members of all racial and cultural groups. This bill additionally would require the commission to

develop guidelines that California law enforcement agencies would be required to adopt for the purpose of establishing race-neutral criminal profiles.

Status: Will be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on April 13th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 78 (Kevin Murray, D—Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Justice to issue an annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year. This bill would require this annual report to contain information about the race, ethnicity, approximate age, and gender of the people stopped in traffic stops.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Public Safety Committee on April 20th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 82 (John Vasconcellos, D—San Jose)

Purpose: To provide that any alien who is otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal services, but who does not meet specified requirements relating to residency status (i.e., an undocumented alien), is eligible for medically necessary pregnancy-related services.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Next stop Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 12th.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 145 (Teresa Hughes, D—Inglewood)

Purpose: To strongly request the Regents of the University of California, and require the Board of Trustees of the California State University, to establish a pilot study that would create pools of talented students to which alternative admissions criteria to these schools may be applied, admit students from these pools, and monitor their academic success as compared to regularly admitted students.

Status: Was scheduled for a vote in Senate Education Committee on March 17th. Vote canceled at author's request.

LLP Position: Support.



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April Legislative Update

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Women's Issues

A.B. 40 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: This bill would establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; also to require the State Department of Health Services, only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program, to administer the program.

Status: Approved by Assembly Health Committee. Next stop Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on March 24th.

LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 324 (Steve Baldwin, R-La Mesa)

Purpose: This bill would require the State Board of Education to develop a program to provide "abstinence education," as defined, and (where appropriate) mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity with a focus on those groups that are most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. Would discourage education in use of contraceptives and other means to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy or transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

Status: Was to be heard in Assembly Education Committee on March 17th. Vote canceled at author's request.

LLP Position: Oppose

S.B. 56 (Hilda Solis, D-El Monte)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from punishing employees who take time off to testify in court in domestic

abuse cases, as long as prior to taking off, the employee gives reasonable notice to the employer that he or she is required to appear in court to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or his or her child.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Industrial Relations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 149 (Ray Haynes, R-Riverside)

Purpose: To set strict standards and restrictions on abortion providers.

Status: Scheduled for a vote in Senate Health and Human Services Committee on April 7th.

LLP Position: Watch.

S.B. 193 (Joe Baca, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer breast cancer license plates for sale at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.

Status: Will be heard in Senate Health and Human Services Committee on April 7th.

LLP Position: Support.

Today's Voice for
Spiritual Choice

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Legislative Surfing, Part III

In the past two newsletters we taught you how use the Internet to find legislation pending before the state legislature and in Congress. This month we will show you how to find out how your state legislators voted on bills. We also want to revisit the last two articles a bit. Our very own Webmaster has created some wonderful and simpler ways to do the things we told you about in our previous newsletters.

Now we have simplified the process considerably for finding state and federal legislation. You simply have to visit the official Lambda Letters Project Web site, where you can begin your search. Enter the following address in your Web browser to get there:

www.lambdaletters.org

Once there, simply click on the button that reads "Links." It is on the left side of your screen, as shown. Next you will see the Lambda Letters Links page. The Government Resources section has links to the state legislature and Congress.

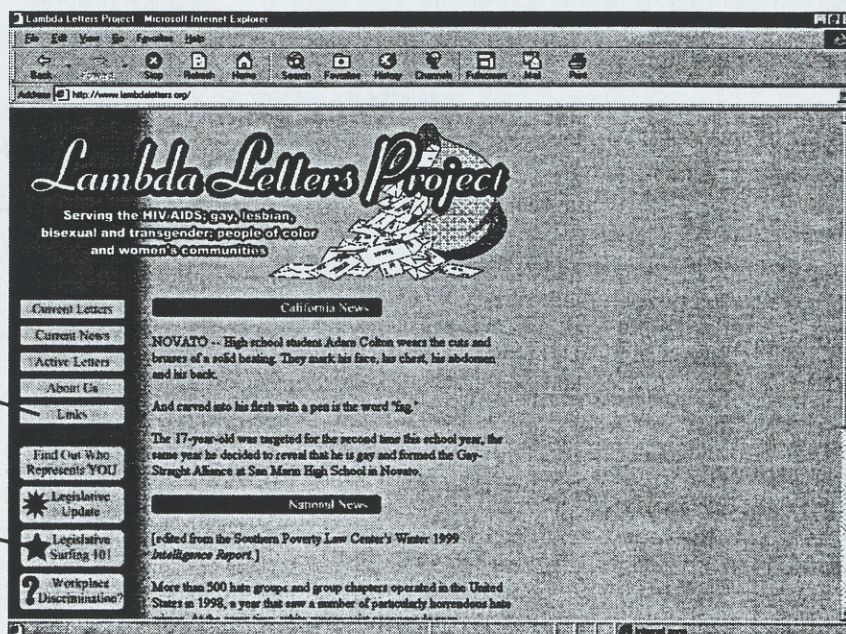
To find information about state bills, click the link under "California Bills" that

reads "Search by Bill Number." This brings you to a page at which you can get information about state bills. You may refer to the article in our January newsletter for instructions on how to use this page. You can also find these instructions by clicking the Legislative Surfing 101 button on our home page, as shown.

Suppose, for example, you had heard that bill SJR 1, which seeks to help AIDS patients find new health-care providers when they are dropped by their HMOs, had been approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. (It has.) You want to know who is on that committee and how they voted. Click on "Search by Bill Number." On the California State Senate page that appears next, type **SJR1** in the Bill Number dialog box and click the gold nugget next to the box. You will see a page with a link to "SJR 1 Medicare coverage." Click on that bill number to see a page with a list of documents related to that bill. Scroll to the bottom of the window and click on "Vote, SJR1, Sen. Health & Human Svcs. committee as of 1999-03-10 - (text)." That will display a list of the members of the committee and how they voted.

Click here to search for
information on legislation

Click here for instructions



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To find information about bills in Congress, go to the Lambda Letters Links page again and click the links under "Federal Bills" that read "Search by bill number" or "Search by subject." Instructions for using the page that appears next on your screen are found in our February newsletter, as well as by clicking the Legislative Surfing 101 button on our home page.

More next month. Happy surfing!

Dreams

Continued from page 1

to prevent the voice of Lambda Letters Project from being stilled forever on January 1, 2001.

Here are the problems.

1. Lambda Letters lacks the money to replace me.

I have worked 50–60 hours per week without pay since 1988. As one of our board members so nicely put it, “We are unlikely to find someone else stupid enough to do that” after I leave. Our board of directors has committed to raising \$50,000 this year towards making it possible to hire my replacement. But more fundamentally, we need people with the skills to do that kind of fund-raising and we need to build a permanent pool of skilled fund-raisers to provide the necessary stream of income over the long haul. At present, those skilled fund-raisers are nowhere in sight.

2. Lambda Letters lacks the legislative expertise to replace me.

To paraphrase Harry Truman, “The legislative buck stops at my desk.” It has been a long time since we’ve had four analysts to write the letters and articles that we publish each month. Almost always, I write one or two of them each month.

It’s often hard for our part-time legislative analysts to find the bills they should be writing about, so I have long been deeply involved in that work as well.

In lobbying, timing is everything. Letters to a legislative committee about a bill are useless if they arrive after the committee has voted on the bill. I’ve been deeply involved in monitoring the vote schedules and assuring that we write on bills at the right time. We need to find people with the time and interest to do these things for the Project.

3. Lambda Letters needs a stronger board to guide the Project into the 21st century.

Don’t get me wrong. I value every one of our board members and their dedication to the Project is marvelous. But the board has always been small and each time a board member leaves, it has a major impact. Not enough of our board members have professional-level skills in fund-raising, publicity, or in managing a nonprofit organization. We need that kind of talent on our board to build an organization with staying power.

We have come a long way since 1988. We’ve grown more than almost anyone expected and the promised land is in sight. The question now is, do we have the will and the talent to cross over into the promised land? Can we finish building an organization that can last beyond my retirement? Doing just that is my dream.

Will you help make my dream come true?



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Women's Human Rights in Afghanistan

Continued from page 4

The United States government has publicly expressed concern regarding the Taliban's violation of women's human rights and closed the Afghanistan embassy in Washington, DC, in 1997. Our government has carried an unequivocal message that it will not in any way support an Afghan government that does not restore women's rights to education, work, and mobility, yet the U.S. is under a great deal of political pressure from Unocal and other corporations that see potential economic profit from doing business with the Taliban. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has been particularly outspoken in her denunciation of the Taliban, even speaking out against their treatment of women when she herself was in Afghanistan in November, 1997. For these reasons we are urging Secretary Albright with our letters to continue to resist these pressures and uphold the human rights of the women of Afghanistan.

For further information please see the Feminist Majority Foundation Web site at www.feminist.org.

Different Kind of Gold Watch

Continued from page 1

forthright bill on the subject might sink other important bills to provide protection from discrimination for lesbians and gays.

We cannot wait until next year to start planning for a bill to protect trans folk. There is just a two-month window (next January and February) for the introduction of next year's bills. We need to start searching soon for a legislator willing to introduce the bill. We need to build a team of people to plan and carry out the lobbying effort on the bill. Organizations within the queer community must be approached for their support.

What do you say? Would you rather give me a gold watch or something really meaningful like a safer world for the trans folk in this state. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

*Lavender
Valentines*

Jeanne Barnett & Ellie Charlton
~ 15 years ~

the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

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newsmagazine

The staff and management of Outword Newsmagazine fully supports the work and goals of Lambda Letters Project and offers its profound gratitude to the volunteers and staff for making those goals a reality.

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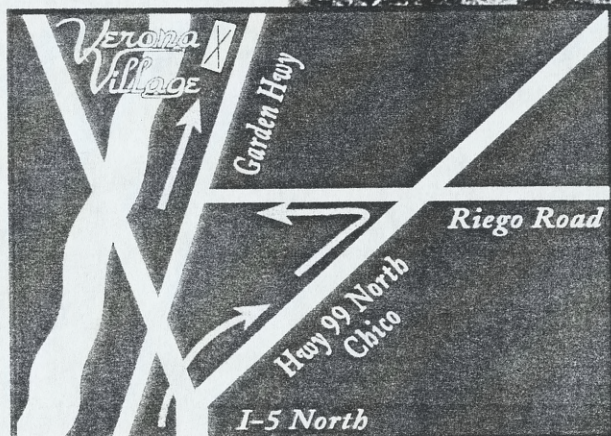
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1,000 By 2,000

The Board of Directors of the Lambda Letters Project has set a goal for Lambda Letters to have 1,000 members by January 1st, 2,000.

We believe that you are in the best possible position to help us reach that goal. You know the services we provide and you know the people in your community who would be most interested in taking advantage of these services.

Won't you help us reach our goal by adopting a goal of your own. Will you pledge to recruit one new member for Lambda Letters in the next 30 days? Please find one new member and have that person complete and return the following application form. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Lambda Letters Project.

I enclose a check, made payable to Lambda Letters, in the amount of:

- ☐ \$35 membership.
- ☐ \$20 limited income membership.
- ☐ Please accept my request for a waiver of dues.

Name - _____

Please print name clearly.

Address - _____ City - _____ ZIP - _____

Please print clearly.

Send to:

The Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608

Waiver Policy

**Lambda Letters does not deny membership due to lack of funds.
If necessary, please request a waiver of dues in the form above.**